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2 SENATOR O'DONNELL: My name is Senator Bill

3 O'Donnell. In 1982, Nevada was one of three names of

4 three states that were chosen to be considered for the

5 placement of Yucca Mountain, or placement of nuclear

6 waste. In 1987, Nevada was the only state to be

7 considered for a repository of nuclear waste. Many

8 people in this room are afraid of nuclear waste. And

9 many people are scared. The opposite of fear is

10 knowledge. People actually don't fear electricity,

11 they don't fear fire. And they fear nuclear waste

12 because they can't see it. --

13 (AUDIENCE YELLING)

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Please, come on.

15 SENATOR O'DONNELL: I'm not running for

16 re-election. I'm --

17 (APPLAUSE)

18 SENATOR O'DONNELL: I'm retiring. But what I

19 have to say tonight I believe is very important to you.

20 And let me be succinct. Nevada is the only proper noun

21 in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. It says that if this

22 site is suitable, we get the waste. Pure and simple.

23 If it is suitable. And if you think, if you think that

24 science is going to prevail over politics in this
25 issue, look around. Now a lot of people tonight have
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1 said we're screwed. We're dumped upon. Now what?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Resistance.

3 SENATOR O'DONNELL: These people -- you know,
4 these people are here, tonight, and I appreciate
5 Secretary Abraham listening to my comments. These
6 people tonight --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's not here.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where is he?

9 MODERATOR LAWSON: Please, come on.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Let him talk, it's
11 unfair.

12 SENATOR O'DONNELL: These people tonight are
13 here because the law says they have to be here.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right,
15 otherwise they wouldn't be.

16 SENATOR O'DONNELL: Do you think -- the
17 comment was made -- I was home taking a shower. And
18 I'm hearing the television, and I'm hearing the man say
19 -- I think it was Mr. Hanlon -- is one of you
20 Mr. Hanlon? Where's Mr. Hanlon?

21 MODERATOR LAWSON: Ms. Hanlon over here.

22 SENATOR O'DONNELL: Was it Ms. -- there was a

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23 gentleman who said -- I heard it, because I was getting

24 ready. I heard him say, you're only being considered.

25 Considered? Well, what's your alternative if we're not

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1 going to be considered? What is your alternative?

2 They don't have one.

3 The point I'm trying to make, the point I'm

4 trying to make here is that we in the state of Nevada

5 are all opposed to storing nuclear waste in our state.

6 However, that decision was made in 1987. And I want

7 you to think for a minute. This meeting isn't going to

8 do anything. The law isn't going to change. And the

9 proper noun, Nevada, will remain in the Nuclear Waste

10 Policy Act. It will not come out. None -- in the last

11 20 years, none of our congressional delegation have

12 ever put a measure in to take Nevada out of the Nuclear

13 Waste Policy Act. Why? Because they don't have the

14 votes. The point here is, Nevada needs the same

15 consideration. We're the only ones selected. And it

16 is political suicide for me to stand up here and say,

17 you know, I think we need consideration for what you're

18 doing to us. Nevada has done its part. Nevada has
 19 been there, and fought the cold war. Nevada has more
 20 nuclear waste stored underneath its land than you can
 21 shake a stick at. If you're going to do this, then we
 22 need to invoke the Fifth Amendment. You are taking our
 23 state. You need to justly compensate us for your
 24 taking.

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25 (APPLAUSE)

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1 And that's my message to you. It is
 2 political -- you'll never hear from a politician, you
 3 will never hear from a politician in this state, you
 4 know what, I think we ought to talk to the federal
 5 government and ask them where do they plan to transport
 6 this waste? Is it through the Spaghetti Bowl? Well,
 7 if it is, maybe we can ask them can they do an
 8 alternative route? Well, we can't do that. No, no,
 9 can't do that. Can't talk to them because if we do
 10 talk to them, then we're tacitly approving the fact
 11 that we want the dump.

12 MODERATOR LAWSON: 30 seconds.

13 SENATOR O'DONNELL: So we have no choice. I
 14 hope --

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Leave it where it is.

16 We're Americans.

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17 SENATOR O'DONNELL: I hope, and I understand,

18 that any political leader in this state cannot stand up

19 and negotiate for anything, and make sure that our

20 citizens are safe. And I hope Secretary Abraham, and I

21 hope the DOE, listens to those who have cooler heads

22 and will represent this state and be concerned with the

23 safety. Let me add one more thing.

24 MODERATOR LAWSON: Please quickly.

25 SENATOR O'DONNELL: Just one more thing.

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1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Time.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Shut up.

3 SENATOR O'DONNELL: One more thing. Did you

4 ever stop and think about the politicos and making

5 political statements? You -- I saw this room light up

6 and stand up and cheer when they were going to arrest

7 the man, the teamster, who was going to drive the truck

8 full of nuclear waste in our state.

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 Isn't that a great idea?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm for that.

12 SENATOR O'DONNELL: Now who's going to drive

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13 the truck full of nuclear waste, and where are you

14 going to store it after it's here in the city?